



Jordan Times

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Israelis, Arabs attend Morocco conference

RABAT (R) — An Israeli cabinet minister took a seat along with Arab leaders among delegations from 30 states and international groups at a Mediterranean environment conference, which opened in Casablanca Monday. Israeli Environment Minister Yossi Sarid was invited by the World Bank and the European Investment Bank, sponsors of the two-day conference. It was the first time Israel has attended an official function in Morocco, which is a member of the Arab League and has no formal ties with the Jewish state. "Well, Israel is talking to the Arabs in the Middle East peace negotiations. So why not discuss environment with them?" commented a Moroccan delegate who asked not to be named. In the past King Hassan has had secret talks in Morocco to explore Middle East peace prospects with Israeli leaders, notably General Moshe Dayan, Yitzhak Rabin in 1976 and Shimon Peres when he was prime minister in 1986. The visits were arranged in part by Moroccan Jews who have emigrated to Israel.

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AMMAN TUESDAY, MAY 25, 1993 THUL HIJEH 4, 1413

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Yemen beat Pakistan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Yemen Monday beat Pakistan 5-1 in their Asian Group A World Cup qualifying matches in Irbid (half line 1-1). Earlier, Jordan and Iraq drew 1-1 (see page 9)

Ramallah trial delayed

RAMALLAH, occupied West Bank (AP) — The trial of an American citizen charged by Israeli authorities with involvement in an outlawed Islamic group was delayed one month Monday so he could brief a new lawyer. Mohammad Salah, 39, a resident of the Chicago area who was arrested in January for suspected membership in the Hamas organization, had been due to go on trial Monday in the military court in Ramallah.

UNIFIL rotates unit through Beirut

BEIRUT (AP) — U.N. peacekeeping troops made their first rotation through Beirut airport in 11 years Monday, signalling renewed international confidence in the facility that had served as a haven for hijackers in civil war years. A Norwegian Boeing 737, chartered from Braathens Safe, landed at 10:35 a.m. (0735 GMT), carrying 110 Norwegian soldiers and officers. They replaced the same number of compatriots serving in the 890-strong Norwegian contingent, the largest of the nine-nation United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) based in the south. The rotation was the first to be held at Beirut international airport since 1982, when Israel invaded Lebanon and the facility was closed for more than three months. After the invasion, UNIFIL rotated troops via Israel's Tel Aviv airport.

Egyptian police kill 4 in south

ASSIUT (AP) — Security forces, firing from an armoured personnel carrier on residents of a southern Egypt town Monday, killed three and wounded a fourth and his son, police said. It was unclear whether the victims were Muslim extremists, or if the incident was related to radicals locked in a bloody confrontation with police. Major General Mahmoud Anta, Assiut security chief, said police were searching for arms in a hush Al Hamman, 15 kilometre east of Assiut, when town residents resisted. An "exchange of fire" followed, he said, resulting in the civilian casualties.

Botha in Cairo

CAIRO (AP) — Foreign Minister P.W. Botha arrived here Tuesday on a three-day official visit, the first to Egypt by a South African minister in 35 years. He visited Cairo in 1957 to attend peace talks on Namibia. Egypt's Foreign Minister Amr Mousa designated his assistant, Saad Rifaat, to greet the South African guest at Cairo international airport. Mr. Botha will have talks with Mr. Mousa and President Hosni Mubarak during his stay.

Kashmir blast kills 18 Indian soldiers

SRINAGAR (R) — Eighteen Indian soldiers were killed in an explosion on a firing range in the northern state of Jammu and Kashmir, a defence spokesman said Monday. He said nine troops were seriously injured in the Sunday explosion in Leh, the main city in the Ladakh region of Kashmir, bordering China and Pakistan. "Preliminary reports suggest it was an accident," the spokesman said in Srinagar, Kashmir's summer capital. "An inquiry is underway."

Sri Lanka disbands secret police force

PUTTALAM, Sri Lanka (AP) — Sri Lanka's new government has closed the secret police force that the late President Ranasinghe Premadasa used to suppress his opponents. Mr. Premadasa, who was assassinated May 1, ran a government that was so authoritarian he often did not allow his own cabinet ministers to make decisions during his four years as president. But that appears to be changing as well since parliament elected Prime Minister Dingiri Banda Wijetunga, a top Premadasa ally and much less autocratic, as his successor.

Palestinians reject Rabin's 'Gaza first' self-rule offer

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinian negotiators rejected Monday an Israeli suggestion to grant Palestinians self-rule first in the occupied Gaza Strip.

"We are against the fragmentation or division, whether it is of the land or whether it is of the negotiating process or the subjects to be discussed," spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi said. She told Israel Radio the suggestion by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to his cabinet Sunday was at odds with Palestinian demands for a comprehensive settlement.

The two sides have for 19 months been negotiating how to enact an interim period of self-rule for the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

A government official quoted Mr. Rabin as telling the cabinet Sunday that when agreement in principle was reached on an interim settlement, "I see nothing to prevent its being applied first in Gaza."

But Dr. Ashrawi said Palestinians viewed the territories as

one integral unit.

She said the suggestion apparently was motivated by Israel's view that Gaza is more difficult to control and lacking in what she called the "ideological bias" of the West Bank.

No date has been set for resuming the peace talks, which broke off in Washington earlier this month.

Palestinian officials said the issue was passed over without serious discussion at the last round.

Haider Abdul Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the bilateral talks, said he accepted Israel leaving Gaza on its own apart from an interim agreement. He said Palestinian leaders could get help from the United Nations, or Egypt and Jordan, to maintain law and order in such an event.

Meanwhile Israel buzzed with interpretations of Mr. Rabin's statement.

The "Gaza first" idea is tossed periodically into the political winds, but Mr. Rabin's cryptic statement issued after a cabinet meeting Sunday brought it sharply into focus in television, radio

and newspaper headlines.

The Israeli parliament, Knesset, scheduled a late afternoon debate on the issue. But no-confidence motions were called off because of an incident in which four Israeli soldiers were killed in Lebanon.

Mr. Rabin said that any agreement had to be reached within the framework of negotiations in Washington.

"However, when an agreement is reached in principle on an interim settlement, there is nothing preventing its being applied first in Gaza," press reports quoted the statement as saying.

The only elaboration was that it was not a message to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accepting its offer to run the Gaza Strip if Israel wanted to pull out.

The vague statement was widely seen as a trial balloon to get the Palestinians talking again after the ninth round that ended in Washington May 13 failed to produce a statement of principles.

"This can create a positive atmosphere. This is an attempt by

the prime minister to deal for the first time with a real problem," said Uzi Baram, the tourism minister and frequent spokesman for the Labour Party.

The prevailing interpretation was that there was enough ground around the statement to keep Israel from being committed to the idea, while giving the impression of a promise of immediate action if the basic principles were agreed on.

Labour whip Eli Dayan said the full five years of interim autonomy foreseen in the occupied territories would not be needed before a final agreement on Gaza. Likud whip Moshe Katav also told Israel Radio he was not opposed to the Gaza first formula.

But one senior Likud bloc figure charged immediately that it was yet another capitulation.

"We have to keep Gaza under Israeli control, both as a buffer between Sinai under Arab control and (the city of) Ashkelon, and as a very serious source of terror against Jews," said Benny Begin of Likud.

Husseini: Reluctant delegates should quit

By Suleiman Al Khalidi
Reuters

AMMAN — Faisal Al Husseini, head of the Palestinian peace delegation, said Monday reluctant members of his team should quit if they could not take the pressure.

"Suspending negotiations requires a political decision of the highest level whether to go ahead with it or not and any reluctant negotiator who is unable to follow the decision to continue negotiating should resign," he told Reuters.

Mr. Husseini's comment underlined the mounting disarray in Palestinian ranks over the future of the 19-month-old Arab-Israeli peace talks.

Chief negotiator Haider Abdul Shafi said Thursday the Palestinians should suspend the talks until Israel conceded self-rule over all the occupied territories including Arab East Jerusalem. Dr. Abdul Shafi stressed that this was his personal view. He said he would continue to lead the negotiating team if the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) directed delegates to attend a 10th round of talks in Washington next month.

Two Palestinian negotiators, Ghassan Al Khatib and Samir Abdullah, became the first to quit the team in April after PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's decision to return to the talks without a solution to Israel's expulsion of 400 Palestinians in December.

The subsequent ninth round of talks ended in Washington without agreement on the principles of interim Palestinian self-rule.

Mr. Husseini rejected comments on Sunday by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin that the Palestinian self-rule could be implemented in the Gaza Strip first, once principles were agreed at the peace talks.

He said, however, that the Palestinian stance would change if Israel unilaterally withdrew from the turbulent strip.

"We are talking now about an interim stage of Palestinian self-rule in its totality which cannot be divided and dealt with in parts," Mr. Husseini said.

"But if Rabin is ready to unilaterally withdraw from Gaza or any occupied territory then we are capable of taking over the affairs of any part that they withdraw from... but this should not be part of the negotiations."

Strikes to be limited

The PLO has decided to limit the number of strikes in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip because of the damage they cause to the Palestinian economy, Mr. Husseini said.

"It is no longer harming the Israeli economy and is now only harming ours by stopping production and businesses," Mr. Husseini told Reuters.

"Commercial strikes served their purpose during a certain period. That has come to an end now and it's not right that it should have a role now when all hours are needed in rebuilding our economy," Mr. Husseini said.

Sayeh: Palestinians lost in talks maze; Peace talks must not fall — McGovern, page 2

Betselem lambasts house demolitions

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — An Israeli human rights group Monday criticised the Israeli army's destruction of homes by weapons fire during searches for Palestinian activists as excessive and leading to abuses.

An army statement responded by saying that the army "takes a wide range of precautions" before opening fire on homes where "wanted" men are suspected of hiding.

A report by the Betselem (Israeli Information Centre for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories) said 49 houses were destroyed and 53 houses damaged in 15 operations which led to the death or capture of 19 Palestinians.

"According to our numbers, the capture of each wanted man entailed the destruction of three houses, the partial destruction of three others and making 40 people homeless," Betselem spokesman Yuval Ginzbar told reporters.

Israeli troops order Palestinians out of their homes through loudspeakers, then open fire on the houses with rocket-propelled grenades, submachine guns and other weapons.

Betselem said that the army has used anti-tank missiles in searches since last September. The army acknowledged using "rockets and other devices" but specifically denied the use of anti-tank missiles.

Mr. Ginzbar noted that in eight of the 15 searches chronicled in the report, no men were captured.

"We agree with the stated aims of the army, which is to use heavy

firepower to flush out armed men in order to save lives," Mr. Ginzbar said. "But destroying a whole neighbourhood to capture one man is out of proportion to those aims."

Only one of the searches took place in the occupied West Bank. The other 14 took place in the occupied Gaza Strip.

Betselem also faulted the army for not pursuing compensation for families. An army statement said it was open to all applications, but Betselem contrasted this with a quote from Ehud Barak, the military chief of staff, who had said in March that the army should initiate compensation.

The human rights group also criticised the army for saying it would compensate only those families who had not knowingly hidden the wanted men. It described this exclusionary policy as a form of collective punishment which violated Israeli and international law.

Also faulted were reports of humiliating treatment of residents by soldiers. In some cases, male residents were bound and beaten as the army conducted the search, and in other cases, they were denied access to food or toilets.

Betselem, which means "in the image," monitors human rights violations against criteria that the Israeli authorities have set for themselves. It was founded by Israeli lawyers and professors.

(Continued on page 10)

Closure slows Israeli economy, page 10

'Friendly fire' kills 4 Israeli soldiers

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Two squads of Israeli paratroopers mistakenly fired at each in South Lebanon Monday, killing four soldiers and wounding three, the army said.

The gun battle erupted around 4:30 a.m. (0130 GMT) in the central sector of Israel's self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon, an army announcement said.

The soldiers were carrying out an operation and "as a result of a misunderstanding in the field... both forces exchanged fire which caused the injuries," the army statement said. The army said the shooting was under investigation.

An army official refused to comment when asked whether the operation was connected to an Israeli helicopter attack against the homes of two Lebanese activists in the same area. The helicopter raid was launched at daybreak.

Monday's shooting marked the worst army blunder since five soldiers were killed by a misfired missile during a Nov. 5 training exercise in the southern desert.



An Israeli soldier is evacuated by helicopter after being wounded early Monday in a 'friendly fire' incident in South Lebanon (AFP photo)

The November incident followed a series of earlier training accidents, and critics charged there as a lack of discipline in the army.

Some of the complaints were aimed at Chief of Staff Lieutenant-General Ehud Barak.

widely seen as having a political future. He has been mentioned as a possible successor to Prime.

(Continued on page 10)

Sudan rebels deny violating ceasefire

NAIROBI (AP) — A Southern Sudan rebel faction Monday denied violating a seven-week ceasefire and accused Sudan of making the allegations to justify a new offensive. Elijah Malok Aleng, spokesman for the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) faction led by John Garang, also accused the government of not observing the spirit or letter of the ceasefire in the first place. On Sunday, Major-General Mohammed Abdullah Oweida, Sudanese army spokesman, said Col. Garang's fighters had killed three government troops over the preceding five days. Gen. Oweida said the violations demonstrate Col. Garang's lack of respect for the ceasefire and his inability to control his men. He said the soldiers were killed when they drove over land mines planted by the insurgents in Equatoria state in the south. Another soldier was killed in SPLA shelling of the government-held town of Luka in the same state, he said. Col. Garang announced a unilateral ceasefire with the government March 1 to create what he called an atmosphere conducive to a second round of peace talks in Nigeria's capital, Abuja. The government reciprocated and announced it was cancelling a planned offensive.

Jordan today celebrates independence anniversary

AMMAN — (J.T.) Today Jordan marks the 47th anniversary of its independence from Britain.

The Kingdom achieved its independence in 1946, fulfilling one of the objectives of the Great Arab Revolt, which aimed at liberating Arab countries from foreign domination.

The Great Arab Revolt was launched by the late King Hussein Ben Ali early this century.

On the eve of the anniversary, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that Jordanians mark this year's Independence Day while enjoying achievements in various fields of economic, political, social and cultural life — never accomplished before.

"Under His Majesty King Hussein's rule, the country has realised the first steps towards establishing institutions oriented towards enhancing democracy, freedom, political pluralism and respect for human rights," it said.

"This year's anniversary," it said, "coincides with the celebrations commemorating the 40th anniversary of the King's assumption of his constitutional powers, with citizens looking back with pride at various remarkable achievements under the King's reign."

Petra said the anniversary also falls close to preparations for the second parliamentary elections in Jordan in four



years, "contributing towards the strengthening of democracy and political stability."

Petra said the anniversary reminds Jordanians of "their task of enhancing cohesion and national unity in the face of dangers posed by the continued Israeli occupation of Arab territories and the expansionist Israeli policies."

"On this occasion, Jordanians recall the achievements of their country made under King Hussein who dedicated his life and effort to serving his homeland," it said.

Referring to the situation on Independence Day, the agency recalled that the late King

Abdullah Ben Al Hussein, founder of the Kingdom, proclaimed Jordan a sovereign and independent state on May 25, 1946.

"Since then, Jordan has charted an objective policy derived from the principles of the Great Arab Revolt and turned it into a base for its moves at both the Arab and international levels," it said.

"King Hussein enhanced the pillars of independence and has been diligently striving towards building modern Jordan through creating the right circumstances in all aspects of Jordanian life," Petra said.

Recounting Jordan's accomplishments, Petra said the country's modern history and democratic rule set a good example for other Arab states, and referred to the achievements in social, cultural, agricultural and industrial fields.

Under King Hussein, Petra said, "Jordan has indeed become one of the main beacons of the Middle East, serving as a model of national unity, stability and security in a turbulent region."

Tuesday has been declared a public holiday to mark the anniversary. All government departments and public institutions will remain closed.

Celebrations to mark Independence Day, page 3; Struggle for independence, page 4

Christopher warns Iraq

WASHINGTON (Agencies) Secretary of State Warren Christopher responded Monday with a stiff warning to reports that the Iraqi government was preparing to attack the Kurdish area in northern Iraq.

"We will be watching very carefully for any change in that situation that might call for further action by the United States," Mr. Christopher said.

According to a story in Monday's New York Times, the Iraqi assault apparently would be intended to recapture Kurdish-held territory south of a "no-fly" zone that the United States, Britain and France established two years ago.

The action was based on the allies' interpretation of U.N. Security Council resolutions designed to further weaken the Iraqi government following its defeat in the 1990 Gulf war.

"We intend to enforce the U.N. resolutions with great resoluteness," Mr. Christopher said while posing for pictures with Foreign Minister Ben Alawai of Oman, a Gulf member of the war coalition.

"He knows what he has to do," Mr. Christopher said of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Iraq warns Kuwait

Iraq warned Kuwait Monday that it could still fight, and would if its rights were abused.

"Iraq's full adherence to Security Council resolutions... cannot be taken to mean that Iraq should accept violations of its territory," said an article in Al Thawra, newspaper of the ruling Baath Party.

The article by Nouri Al Marsoumi, senior under-secretary of the Ministry of Information, was Iraq's latest reaction to the realignment of its border with Kuwait by a post-Gulf war U.N. commission.

Mr. Marsoumi accused Kuwait of "conspiracy and provocation" and said it must "treat Iraq's legitimate rights in land, sovereignty and wealth in accordance with the principles of justice."

"Security Council resolutions... permit Iraq to possess arms that secure for it the ability to defend itself," he wrote.

"If Iraq's patience runs out, we warn that ditches and walls will be no defence."

"The thieves of Kuwait" — meaning the Kuwaiti ruling family, who fled to Saudi Arabia during Iraq's 1990-91 occupation — "will not find anyone this time to carry them to Riyadh," he said.

Kuwaitis "insecure," page 2

Queen urges students to seek equity, justice

BOSTON (R) — Queen Noor, invoking the 1970s U.S. campus activism in which she took part, called on university students Monday to fight for equity, justice and peace.

Queen Noor, delivering an address at graduation ceremonies at Boston College, recalled her own experiences in the early 1970s when she attended Princeton University in New Jersey.

That era — during the days of the civil rights movement, anti-Vietnam war protests and the beginning of environmental and ecological awareness — was marked by widespread campus activism unparalleled before or since.

"We demonstrated and struggled to advance the spirit and gains of the civil rights movement," said Queen Noor. "We challenged institutionalised environmental destruction."

"In the course of these protests, some students lost their lives, some, myself included, were tear-gassed, and some were jailed," Queen Noor said. "Perhaps we weren't always right but we were willing to take risks."

Queen Noor told the students hundreds of millions of their peers throughout the world shared their dreams.

"And so today we look to you, and to your generation, to revitalise our shared quest for equity, justice and peace," she said. "We expect you to do better than we have done."

"Remember always that those of us in the generation of the 1960s and 1970s who pioneered the politics of youth look to you today to continue the struggle that we began."

Queen Noor urged students to seek equity, justice and peace.

Velayati discusses regional, Islamic issues in Bahrain

MANAMA (Agencies) — Iran's foreign minister, Ali Akbar Velayati, visited Bahrain Monday with a message to the ruling emir from President Hashemi Rafsanjani.

Bahrain was the fifth stop for Mr. Velayati on a tour of the six member countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). The tour, which started Wednesday in Saudi Arabia, is an attempt to build bridges with the neighbouring Gulf Arab monarchies.

Iran's foreign minister, Ali Akbar Velayati, visited Bahrain Monday with a message to the ruling emir from President Hashemi Rafsanjani.

Upon the Occasion of
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ARAB BANK

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PEOPLE OF JORDAN
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Sayeh says Palestinians lost in peace talks maze

DUBAI (R) — Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh, who is quitting as speaker of the Palestinian parliament in exile, has told a Gulf newspaper the Palestinians have lost their way over peace talks with Israel.

"The Palestinian people should know which path they are following and what aim they are working for," the United Arab Emirates (UAE) newspaper Al Khaleej quoted him as saying in an interview.

"The Palestinian people want to know. They do not want to be told 'we want to negotiate,' then be told 'there are no results from negotiations,' then hear that talks are suspended 'until Israel takes positive steps' or 'until the United States takes up its responsibility.'"

"It is not acceptable that we continue negotiations without reaching any results... we should have some gains. Why else negotiate?"

Sheikh Sayeh, 86, has in the past been close to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat while commanding respect from all PLO factions.

His call Saturday for suspension of U.S.-sponsored peace talks with Israel and announcement that he was standing down as speaker highlighted differences in Palestinian ranks.

The PLO led local leaders from the West Bank and Gaza Strip resume talks in Washington last month in spite of anger over Israel's December expulsion of more than 400 activists.

Opponents of the talks say the Palestinians have gained next to nothing after more than a year of negotiations while conditions in the occupied territories worsen.

Sheikh Sayeh told Al Khaleej that before he could reconsider his resignation "matters should

first be straightened out and mistakes put right."

"If matters were straightened out and put on the right path, then I will not resign," he told the newspaper.

Sheikh Sayeh suffered a stroke earlier this year. He told the newspaper that his health was also a factor in his resignation.

AP adds: The Arab participants in the peace talks — the Palestinians, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon — plan to meet in Amman early June to evaluate the last round of peace negotiations which ended in Washington earlier this month and prepare for the next round in June.

Hardline Palestinians have been demanding that their delegation quit the talks to protest the lack of progress and Israel's refusal to repatriate nearly 400 Palestinians it banished to Lebanon in December.

The Palestinians had suspended their participation in the peace process to protest the mass expulsion, but agreed to rejoin the talks April 27 hoping that the United States would pressure Israel to offer some concessions in return for their flexibility.

But Israel offered only a slightly amended version of an old proposal for limited self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and stuck to its refusal to end the occupation of these territories.

Sheikh Sayeh announced Saturday he would step down at the next session of the 451-member PNC, which he has chaired since 1984.

No date for a PNC meeting has been set. But Sheikh Sayeh's intention to resign indicated that Mr. Arafat was losing support for his effort to continue the peace process.

Peace talks must not fail — McGovern

RABAT (R) — Former U.S. Senator George McGovern said Monday at the end of a nine-nation Middle East tour that he did not think the Arab-Israeli peace talks would fail despite strong pressure from extremists on both sides.

Mr. McGovern, the 1972 Democratic presidential candidate who now heads the Washington-based Middle East Policy Council think tank, told a news conference:

"There is a strong sense of urgency that it is absolutely imperative that the talks should not fail."

He said that on his return to Washington he would report on his tour to his "old friends" President Bill Clinton and Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

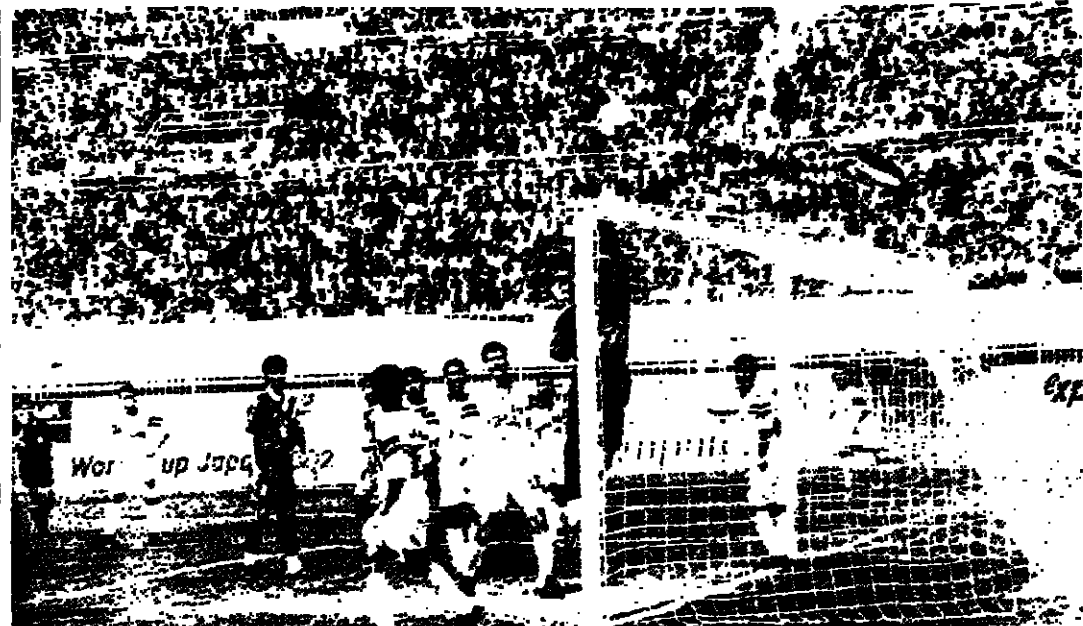
"I think the U.S. should play an active role... I think the U.S. has to put strong pressure on the Israeli government and Palestinian leaders... I do not think they (the talks) will fail," Mr. McGovern said.

He said the 19-month-old talks had been stalled by radicals who wished to wreck the process.

"The central problem is that extremist elements on each side are making it very difficult for the negotiators to act as free agents."

"In Israel settlers are intensifying pressure not to cede an inch of land and threatening violence. That position has to change," he said. "On the Palestinian side I think they are serious about a negotiated settlement but they also are being pressured by extremists."

On his tour he conferred with President Al Assad of Syria, King Hussein, the sultan of Oman, and senior officials in Israel, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Morocco.



JORDAN, IRAQ DRAW: Jordan's goalkeeper Mohammed Abu Daoud averts a goal Monday during a Group A World Cup qualifying match with Iraq at Irbid. The match was drawn 1-1 (see page 9)

Eritreans celebrate state status

ASMARA (R) — Fireworks exploded and thousands chanted in joy when Eritrea formally became the world's newest state at midnight after 30 years of civil war.

Isayas Afewerki, the 46-year-old leader of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) hailed the event as a new dawn for a people who have known nothing but conflict for decades.

He was formally elected president at a weekend meeting of the EPLF's ruling council before the proclamation of independence.

Diplomats from about 50 nations and heads of state from Eritrea's neighbours took part in festivities which began before midnight on Sunday and went on after dawn on Monday.

Dozens of war casualties in wheelchairs took part in a march past in a poignant reminder of the human cost of creating the state and the redrawing of Africa's post-colonial map for the first time.

The formal declaration of independence and the unfurling of the Eritrean flag was marked by the unfurling of hundreds of women in the stadium.

It was followed by an explosion of fireworks, singing and dancing as thousands in Asmara and tiny hilltop hamlets across the country

celebrated the fruits of Africa's longest civil war.

Mr. Isayas arrived at Asmara's battered city stadium accompanied by Ethiopian President Meles Zenawi to symbolise the new relationship between two states previously at war.

Eritrean liberation movements fought against rule from the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, for 30 years until Tigre and Eritrean rebels joined forces to topple dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam in 1991.

They were supported during much of their struggle by successive governments in Sudan — support which strained ties between the governments of Sudan and Ethiopia.

Sudan's military ruler Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan Al Bashir took part in the ceremonies to symbolise a new era of peace between his government and Ethiopia.

Djibouti's President Hassan Gouled Aptidon also attended to highlight his approval of Eritrean independence and the hope that it will help bring peace to the Horn of Africa, which has known little but war for three decades.

The ceremony was also attended by a representative of the United Nations and the

Organisation of African Unity.

Last month about 1.3 million registered voters decided overwhelmingly for independence from Ethiopia in a referendum supervised by the United Nations.

Eritrea was colonised by Italy at the end of the 19th century. In 1952 the country was federated with Ethiopia by the United Nations.

In 1962 Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie dissolved the federation and united the Red Sea province with the rest of the country, touching off a war which killed hundreds of thousands and wrecked the economies of both states.

The EPLF estimates that it will need more than \$2 billion to repair an economy bombed to a standstill but to date Western donors have pledged only \$28 million.

Hundreds of thousands of people were made refugees in the conflict and went into exile in countries as far apart as Sudan and the United States.

Aid agencies estimate that up to one third of Eritrea's 3.5 million people are dependent upon food handouts and will continue to be so until agriculture can be rehabilitated.

Algeria to convene national conference

ALGERIA (R) — Algeria's leaders, fighting a war against Islamic fundamentalists, are to organise a national conference to seek a consensus on ways to return the country to democracy.

Algeria has been under a state of emergency since February last year. It has no parliament and no date has been set for fresh elections to replace multiparty general elections cancelled after a first round of voting in January 1992.

The collective presidency, which took over in the same month, said Sunday in a statement carried by the official news agency APS it will hold talks with political parties and associations to lay the groundwork for the conference.

"This important step in the dialogue will also prepare the foundations of national consensus whose contours will be defined during a national conference grouping all partners to the talks," it added.

The collective presidency took over after President Chadli Bendjedid resigned following a landslide first-round lead by Islamic fundamentalists in the general election.

Earlier this year it held talks with political and other groups on ways to return Algeria to a multiparty democratic state.

It invited all groups except those who supported "terrorism" — the official term for Islamic militants who are fighting the government.

Kuwaitis 'insecure' despite demarcation of border

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait Sunday welcomed as historic the final U.N. demarcation of its border with Iraq but analysts said security worries caused by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's continued hostility would linger.

The analysts said the transfer of oil wells to Kuwait under the demarcation could lead to further trouble from President Saddam, who ordered the 1990 invasion of the emirate.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali Thursday declared as final the work of a U.N. border commission that has demarcated the disputed 1963 boundary, one reason for Baghdad's invasion.

Dr. Ghali called on Iraq to reverse its refusal to accept the decisions of the commission, including the previously unmarked land border it demarcated a year ago.

Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Dakkil said the cabinet at its weekly meeting expressed deep satisfaction with the commission's work. Kuwait affirmed complete adherence to its decisions and described the demarcation as historic.

Mr. Dakkil added the cabinet had approved \$25 million contribution to U.N. peacekeeping operations around the world.

"The commission... is an important response by the United Nations to remove permanently a recurrent source of regional tension," Tarek Razouqi, Kuwait's representative on the commission, said in a paper summarising the demarcation.

"The demarcation of the border is a relief," said Abdullah Al Shayeji, political science professor at Kuwait University.

"But the oil wells might be considered contentious. I am afraid we might be sowing the seeds of future confrontation and future claims against Kuwait. On

this I am fearful."

"Iraq's rejection of the land and sea border demarcation faces the whole weight of world opinion, which is in favour of the demarcation," said a senior foreign diplomat.

"But politically, the issue of the oil wells could create uneasiness in Kuwait over the years to come," he added.

The wells are in an oil reservoir that straddles the northern sector of the border. The main part of the reservoir remains in Iraq where it is called South Rumailah.

Baghdad charged before the crisis that Kuwait had been tapping oil when it drilled on its side of the border in a field Kuwait calls Rutqa.

The demarcation commission asserted that it was Iraq that had gone beyond its borders.

Kuwaiti oil officials say they will try to pump oil from the 11 wells just as soon as unexploded munitions left over from the Gulf war are cleared up.

The commission insists it has not drawn a new boundary between the two countries or reallocated territory.

Instead it has "simply carried out the technical task necessary to demarcate, for the first time, the precise coordinates of the international boundary reaffirmed in the agreed minutes" between the two countries.

Information Minister Sheikh Saud Nasser Al Saud Al Sabah, said in a recent interview with Reuters that security remained by far the most important issue in Kuwait after the war.

"There still exists here a sense of insecurity because of the continuation of the presence of the Iraqi regime and the threats and media attacks by Iraq and its friends in the Arab World against Kuwait," Sheikh Saud said.

Rafsanjani says economy is healthy

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani, campaigning for reelection next month, has boasted that Iran's economy was healthy, despite growing public discontent and violent riots.

He told a news conference in Tehran that during his four-year term in office, Iran saw unprecedented economic growth.

Mr. Rafsanjani, 59, is seeking a second four-year term in the June 11 race. Three other candidates, none of them a major figure, also have been cleared to run for office.

The official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) quoted Mr. Rafsanjani as saying that Iran's production index and potential have maintained an "upward trend" since 1989 with the economic growth reaching 8.3 per cent.

This "is very high compared to figures around the world," he added, according to IRNA, monitored in Nicotia.

Unemployment, he said, dropped from 14.9 per cent to 11 per cent and annual imports of wheat, which ran at 5 million tonnes, were reduced by half despite the population increase.

Iran's population growth, estimated at two million a year, is one of the highest in the world. Iran currently has a 58 million population.

Mr. Rafsanjani also said 800,000 students were enrolled at the country's universities, a two

fold increase over the 1989 figure.

He noted the increase in oil production capacity, which his oil minister, Gholamreza Agazadeh, last week estimated at 4.3 million barrels a day, up from 2.5 million barrels a day four years ago.

Mr. Rafsanjani, however, made no direct reference to the violent riots that have plagued several Iranian cities in recent months. Industries have been hit by strikes as employees demanded higher wages.

Mr. Rafsanjani is a charismatic middle-ranking cleric who has held senior positions since the Islamic revolution seized power in 1979.

A former parliament speaker, he won a landslide victory against nondescript rivals in the July 1989 presidential election.

He has tried to mend ties with the West to attract much-needed investment and development. His failure to do so has prevented the revival of the Iran's moribund economy and allowed his radical, fundamentalist rivals to exploit that to curb his influence.

In the forthcoming race, he will compete against former Labour Minister Ahmad Tavakoli, former Parliament Deputy Rajab Ali Taheri and Abdullah Jafar Ali Jasebi, a university chancellor.

It is not clear if his radical opponents would be able to rally behind a single candidate to bring him down.



Hashemi Rafsanjani

Asked about relations with the West, Mr. Rafsanjani, according to IRNA, said Tehran sought cooperation with all world states except for two countries — South Africa and Israel.

"As for the United States," he said, "they are still hostile against the Islamic Republic of Iran, and we have serious disputes with them."

He said Washington must free billions of dollars in assets frozen by the Iranian revolution.

"If the assets were freed, then we would make up our mind" about restoring ties, severed after Iranian militants seized the U.S. embassy in Tehran in November 1979 and held 52 American hostages for 444 days.

Reuter adds in an interview in Time magazine on Sunday, Mr. Rafsanjani said Iran used its influence to win the release of U.S. hostages in Lebanon, but all it got in return was grief from his friends and tough talk from Washington.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Saudis remind pilgrims of political ban

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia has warned that it would severely punish anyone who passes out political leaflets, books or tapes during this year's pilgrimage to Mecca. An Interior Ministry statement carried by Saudi Press Agency Sunday night said that "...it is strictly forbidden to distribute pamphlets, books or tapes during the Haj season. Anyone who does such things will be brought to account and severely punished." The kingdom has issued several similar warnings in the last few months. More than 700,000 Muslims from around the world including 100,000 Iranians have flocked to Saudi Arabia for the annual pilgrimage to Islam's holiest city and thousands more are still arriving. The Haj reaches its climax on May 30, ninth day of the holy month of Dhu'l-Hijja.

Yemeni company invites foreign investors

ADEN, Yemen (R) — A company seeking to build the first cement factory in southern Yemen is offering shares worth \$45 million to foreign investors. The firm's director general told Reuters. Fouad Mohammad Abdul Karim said the offer by Batais Company for Cement Industry was in line with government policy to give the private sector a greater role in industry. He said shares would be offered first to foreign investors, and more would be offered if the first batch, which represented 45 per cent of the company's capital, were fully subscribed. The Aden-based company was established in 1984 with 70 per cent of its capital owned by the government of former Marxist South Yemen and 30 per cent by the Palestine Liberation Organisation. It was set up to build a 500,000-tonne per year cement factory in Batais, 90 kilometres east of Aden. Mr. Abdul Karim said the firm spent \$25,000 on feasibility studies and \$3.25 million on studies on raw materials. It had also guaranteed enough electricity to run the factory and dug seven water wells and built a road leading to the site.

Hong Kong to take over frozen Iraqi funds

HONG KONG (AP) — The Hong Kong government said Monday it is ordering banks to hand over Iraqi funds that were frozen under United Nations sanctions. It said it was empowered by London to write to nearly 400 financial institutions in the British colony, ordering them to surrender the funds in compliance with U.N. Resolution 778 of last October. Resolution 778 allows for frozen Iraqi assets to be transferred to a fund for financing post-Gulf war reconstruction and the U.N. inspection teams in Iraq. "The government will take all necessary measures to implement the order," said a statement from the Hong Kong government's Financial Services branch. It said the order also requires the sale of Iraqi-owned petroleum and petroleum products in Hong Kong, with the proceeds to go to the United Nations. A Financial Services official, Anthony O'Brien, said he did not know how much money might be involved, or why the action was being taken only now.

11 die in mushroom poisoning in Iran

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Eleven people have died after eating poisonous mushrooms during the harvest season in western Kermanshah province, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported Sunday. It said 17 people remained in hospital and dozens of others who ate the same mushrooms have been treated and sent home.

Herzog hospitalised with respiratory infection

TEL AVIV (AP) — Former Israeli President Chaim Herzog was hospitalised with a respiratory infection Sunday night, the Itim news agency reported. Mr. Herzog, who only stepped down on May 13, was feeling well and expected to be released from the Tel Hahsom hospital in Tel Aviv within two days, Itim said. Ezer Weizman succeeded Mr. Herzog, who had served in the influential but largely ceremonial post for two terms of five years each. The Irish-born Herzog, 74, has also served as a legislator, an ambassador to the United Nations and as a general in the Israeli army. He was trained as a lawyer and is known for his writings and radio commentary.

Egyptian court rules military trials legal

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's supreme administrative court has ruled that President Hosni Mubarak had the right to refer 48 Muslim militants to trial in a military court that sentenced eight of them to death in December. Cairo newspapers said Monday the court overturned a decision by the lower administrative court, which judged that the militants should not have been tried in a military court because they were civilians. The supreme administrative court said Mr. Mubarak had the right to transfer any case he deemed necessary to a military court under the state of emergency which has been in force for much of the time since his predecessor, Anwar Sadat, was assassinated by Muslim militants in 1981. Mr. Mubarak, fighting to suppress a wave of political violence that has killed more than 120 people in the last 14 months, began to refer militant cases to military courts last year because they would act faster and be less vulnerable to intimidation. The ruling clears the way for 16 death sentences imposed by military courts to be carried out. The 48, who were tried in Alexandria, were the first militants to be transferred to a military court. The Alexandria court later sentenced a ninth man to death for killing a policeman. Since then, a military court in Cairo has sentenced seven men to death.

Egypt passes budget in line with IMF target

CAIRO (R) — The Egyptian parliament approved on Monday a 1993/94 budget which according to Western economists is broadly in line with a 3.5 per cent deficit target proposed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Parliament made no major amendment to the draft which the government presented in April. It envisages boosting public sector salaries and military spending but cutting food subsidies as part of IMF-backed economic reforms begun in 1991. The budget for the financial year starting on July 1 put total expenditure at 65.3 billion pounds (\$19.78 billion), a 4.5 per cent rise on the 1992/93 draft budget total of 62.5 billion (\$19.72 billion). It calculated the deficit at 8.98 billion pounds (\$2.75 billion) in 1992/93. Western economists say government figures do not use internationally recognised spending and revenue categories and so direct comparison in with IMF figures was not possible.

JORDAN TELEVISION

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PROGRAMME TWO
18:00 Omniscience
18:30 Magay
19:00 News in French
19:15 Ushuala
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Beatles About
21:10 Forever Green
22:00 News in English
22:30 Feature Film

PRAYER TIMES

6:57 Fajr
10:24 (Sunne) Dhu
12:32 Dhuhr
16:13 'Asr
19:26 Maghreb
21:08 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetfield, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637411
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637411
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 623366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 625543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Assioma International Church Tel. 62526
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824, 654952
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691
Church of the Redeemer - Tel. 608526

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Some clouds will appear at various altitudes and there will be a chance for scattered showers of rain. Winds will be southwesterly moderate, freshening at times. In Agaba, it will be dusty and partly cloudy with a chance for scattered showers or rain, while winds will be northerly moderate to fresh and seas calm.

	Min/Max temp.
Amman	15 / 27
Agaba	20 / 34
Deserta	12 / 31
Jordan Valley	20 / 32

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 27, Agaba 34. Humidity readings: Amman 27 per cent, Agaba 24 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Mohammad Labada	683585
Dr. Khalil Thabes	757253
Dr. Fayez Al Dabbas	759135
Dr. Jihad Ziyadeh	381148
Firas pharmacy	661912
Ferdows pharmacy	778336
Al Asma pharmacy	677035
Natoukh pharmacy	626762
Al Salan pharmacy	658730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shmicihi pharmacy	637660
Natoukh pharmacy	626672
Najib pharmacy	847632
IRBID:	
Dr. Mazen Al Sharaifi	(-)
Alqada pharmacy	(-)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Nasser Ibrahim	(-)
EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	630541
Rescue	199
Roscoe Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	894390
Public Security Department	602800
Water and Sewerage	661176
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	787111
Complaints	787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	910230
Central Amman Telephone	
Khalil pharmacy	965417
Repairs	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Amal Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power	
Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	06-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport	06-53200
HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	813813/22
Khalid Maternity, J. Ann	644281/6
Akshid Maternity, J. Ann	64241/2
Jabal Amman Maternity	636140
Malhas, J. Amman	664171/4
Palestine, Shmicihi	664171/4
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajira	77101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh	775111/26
Arroy, Marka	891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital	666100
Amal Hospital	674155
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)883323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)805560
Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)886732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital	(09)999970
IRBID:	
Princess Basmah Hospital	(02)255555

Home News



ARMY HEADQUARTERS: Prime Minister Hafez Mar' Al Kaabneh. The premier and the Lt. General discussed several issues of concern to the Jordanian Armed Forces (Petra photo)

Celebrations begin to mark Jordan's Independence Day

SALT (Petra) — Lower House of Parliament Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat Monday underlined the role of women in the introducing positive changes in the Jordanian society.

In an address at a celebration organised by the Balqa governorate's Women's Federation at Al Salt Cultural Centre, on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's assumption of his constitutional powers and Independence Day, Dr. Arabiyat called for adhering to the noble norms and values of the Jordanian society.

Dr. Arabiyat, who is a Muslim Brotherhood deputy, reviewed achievements accomplished in Jordan under His Majesty King Hussein and voiced hope that the Arab nation will unify its ranks to

become a strong power in the region.

Balqa Federation President Najah Abu Hazim also delivered an address in which she reviewed the significance of the two national occasions, outlining changes that took place in the Kingdom since its independence.

Ms. Abu Hazim said King Hussein has devoted his life to promoting Jordan's status in the world and was always an advocate of the causes of his country and nation.

Prince attends celebration

Also on the occasion, Their Royal Highnesses Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussein and Princess Alia Al Faisal attended a celebration organised by Philadelphia University.

Children's nutrition declines by 16%, says recent survey



Experts advise health authorities to instruct Jordanian mothers on sound and healthy feeding habits for their children (file photo)

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Initial results of a survey conducted recently in Jordan to determine the level and quality of nutrition among Jordanian children has revealed that their nutrition has declined by at least 16 per cent, as a result of the events in the past few years.

A source at UNICEF (the United Nations Children's Fund) told the Jordan Times that the rising rate of unemployment, poverty and the general difficult economic conditions in the Kingdom were behind the downturn in children's nutrition levels.

A day-long seminar to review the survey's results was organised Saturday by the Health Ministry in cooperation with UNICEF.

It ended with a call on the concerned health authorities to instruct mothers on sound and healthy means of feeding children

and to remove mal-practices that tend to adversely affect children's health.

According to the UNICEF source, the deterioration in the level of nutrition was apparent in an initial examination of the survey results, but detailed studies of this survey, which are underway, could provide a clearer picture of the situation.

The seminar aimed at evaluating the survey, conducted on 800 Jordanian children under five years of age, from various governorates, by determining the nature and quality of the food they consume.

A statement at the end of the meetings urged the health authorities to conduct accurate studies to determine the extent of malnutrition and anaemia among children and women and to provide better health services to those areas where mal-nutrition exists.

The statement said children, especially those between six and 36 months old, should have iron and iodine added to their food to reduce their chance of becoming anaemic.

The statement also called for a series of studies to be conducted on children in order to determine the cause of low birth weight, so that appropriate measures can be taken to correct the problem.

Furthermore, the statement urged the health authorities to spread public awareness about avoiding early marriages and marriages among close relatives, and to conduct pre-natal examinations.

Dr. Mamoun Maabreh of the Health Ministry said that the survey was aimed at determining the extent to which social and economic factors affect the general health and nutrition levels of Jordanian children.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Eritrea, Argentina

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday sent a cable to Eritrean President Issaias Afewerki congratulating him in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian people and government on his country's independence from Ethiopia. King Hussein wished Mr. Afewerki good health and happiness and the Eritrean people further progress and prosperity. King Hussein Monday sent a similar cable to Argentine President Carlos Menem to congratulate him on Argentina's national day.

Free medical day organised in Wadi Musa

WADI MUSA (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Bint Al Hussein Monday attended the activities of a free medical day organised in Wadi Musa, near Petra. The day included offering medical services free of charge to the citizens of the town and delivering lectures on health issues. Princess Alia distributed health aids to several handicapped persons in the town and met with citizens and heard their demands.

Ruseifa handicapped children's exhibit to open

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Social Development Amin Mashagbeh Wednesday will open the annual exhibition of handicrafts produced by students at the workshops of the Ruseifa Handicapped Training and Rehabilitation Centre. The exhibition which is held in observance of Independence Day will last three days.

Education panel reviews French curriculum

AMMAN (Petra) — The Education Council will meet Tuesday under the chairmanship of Deputy Premier and Education Minister Thourar Al Hindawi to review four working papers on teaching French at government schools. Other topics will discuss the Arab language curriculum in the secondary stage.

JEA begins electrification of Kraimeh

NORTH SHUNEH (Petra) — The Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) Monday embarked on installing electricity poles and laying cables at the Kraimeh town in the Jordan Valley. The project is being implemented within the framework of the electrification of rural regions — a programme which will be completed by the end of 1994.

Bulgarian official to arrive for trade talks

AMMAN (Petra) — The Bulgarian minister of industry will arrive here on June 6 on a two-day visit to Jordan for talks with his Jordanian counterpart and senior Jordanian officials on economic cooperation and the possibility of enhancing the volume of trade between both countries.

Ministry to participate in Japan education programme

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Education will take part in an education programme to open in Japan on June 16. The two week programme will tackle education in Japan.

Egypt-Jordan company to review projects

AMMAN (J.T.) — Egyptian Minister of International Cooperation Maurice Makramallah is due in Amman Wednesday at the head of a team that will take part in the meetings of the Jordanian-Egyptian Holding Company. The company, established in 1988, is responsible for economic projects carried out in Jordan and Egypt. The Ministry of Industry and Trade here said that discussions at the meetings will cover progress made on these projects.

1st pan-Arab water workshop to start in Libya

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Engineers Association (JEA) will participate in the first pan-Arab workshop on water resources in the Arab World to open in Libya Tuesday. Several working papers on water resources, dams, water projects and related issues will be reviewed in the three-day workshop. The participants will inspect Libya's water projects including the man-made Libyan river.



Students at the Nazek Al Hariri Centre for Special Education enjoy fun on the playground (file photo)

Handicapped children's art contest draws 11 young Arab winners

AMMAN (J.T.) — Handicapped children from ten Arab countries Monday took part in a drawing and sketch competition organised at the Nazek Al Hariri special training centre for the handicapped.

The centre's director, Yaser Salem, said Nazek Al Hariri holds annual competitions for handicapped children, but this year the event marked the first time the competition was held at the pan-Arab level.

A total of 220 children contributed 557 drawings and sketches, according to Dr. Salem.

He said the participants were between six and 18 years of age and their entries were divided into three age groups: Six to nine, 10 to 14 and 15 to 18 years.

The participating countries were: Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Sudan, Qatar, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Lebanon, Iraq, Syria and Jordan, said Dr. Salem.

The drawings were sent by children in the other Arab countries through their respective embassies in Jordan, Dr. Salem told the Jordan Times.

The exhibition, which was attended by a large number of Arab and foreign diplomats in Jordan, was opened by Lebanon's Ambassador to Jordan Ahmad Ibrahim, said Dr. Salem.

He said a technical team of

Jordanian artists judged the 557 paintings and sketches and selected 11 winning works.

Ambassador Ibrahim presented awards to: Amjad Ibrahim of Bahrain, Ahlam Utaibi of Saudi Arabia, Mohammad Abdo of Qatar, Zena Yunis of Lebanon, Juma Rashed and Adel Saeed of the United Arab Emirates, Shima Mohammad of Egypt, Salma Mohammad of Sudan, Mohammad Bastouni of Syria, Salim Fadel of Iraq and Andali Bawaya of Jordan.

The Nazek Al Hariri Centre, established near Amman in 1984, aims at providing vocational and academic training, social and health care and recreational services to handicapped children.

Dr. Salem noted that the centre offers academic and vocational training to 215 day students and is staffed by 57 instructors.

Funding for the training and the school in general is provided for by Rafik Hariri, prime minister of Lebanon, whose wife, Nazek, built the school in 1985 at the cost of JD2 million.

Dr. Salem added that the centre also organises training courses for instructors in rehabilitation centres in other Arab states.

The centre has organised drawing competitions by handicapped children since 1987 to encourage children's activities and to draw

public attention to the children's humanitarian needs, Dr. Salem explained.



LOYALTY DINNER: Air France hosted its annual dinner on May 17 at the Amman Marriott Hotel in honor of its clients and travel agents. During the dinner, Mr. Jean Claude Rouyer (regional manager for Jordan and Iraq) delivered a speech in which he announced the operation of Boeing 747 on the Amman - Paris Wednesday flight from June 16 and the introduction of Frequenc Plus, a frequent flyer scheme. On the basis of accumulated points, Frequenc Plus entitles passengers to bonuses such as class upgrading, excess baggage exemption and free tickets. The Air France Group, which consists of 95 companies, is the third largest air transport group in the world and serves over 225 cities in 106 countries with some 220 aircrafts. For the year 1993, Air France Group adopted a charter under the logo "le client en tete" (the client above all), giving top priority to client satisfaction.

WHAT'S GOING ON

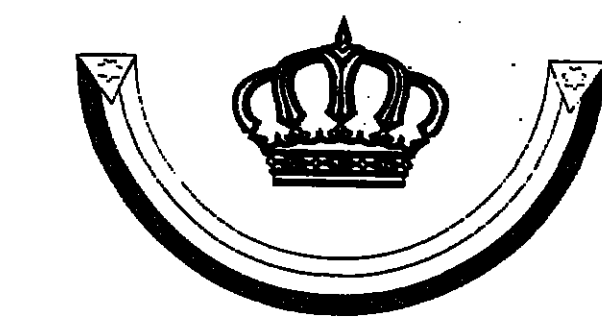
The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition entitled "Fragments: Weavings and Works on Paper" by Kevin A. Hinch and Margaret M. Hinch at the American Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Patrice Pain at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Armenian miniature exhibition adapted by Clara Metzghagian at the British Council.
- ★ Exhibition of sculptures by Artist Abdul Hayy Musallam at Baladus Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Rafiq Al Lahham at the Royal Cultural Centre.

LECTURE

- ★ Lecture, in Arabic, on "The Islamic-Arab Renaissance Project" by head of the Islamic Action Front (IAF) Ishag Al Farhan at the Scientific and Cultural Centre of Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation 6:30 p.m.



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and take this opportunity to extend good wishes for the success of

Jordanian celebrations being held in New Jersey, USA, today,
Jordan National Day

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Jordan Times

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What is happening? Nobody cares any more?

THE ISRAELI establishment is increasingly being criticised for its iron fist policies in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. On Sunday the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Cornelio Sommaruga, demanded that Israel end human rights violations in the occupied territories. "I consider that using live ammunition (against Palestinian children) is a serious problem," Sommaruga said. The president of the ICRC, an organisation famed for its humanitarian efforts worldwide and its abstention from taking sides in conflicts, must have felt very much compelled by the continued killing of children to scold the Israelis and remind them that they are an occupying power violating the terms of the Geneva Conventions.

Only two days earlier, UNRWA's Commissioner General Ilter Turkmen described the situation in the occupied territories, especially in the refugee camps, as being intolerable. He reminded the Israelis and the whole world that the Israeli army has killed more people, mainly children, during the first five months of this year than it did in 1992.

Despite all this criticism, the Israeli prime minister, Yitzhak Rabin, seems to be still believing that by placing all the occupied territories under siege, killing people, detaining thousands, demolishing homes and depriving a whole population of its basic means of subsistence he would be able to break the will of the Palestinian people. But Mr. Rabin must realise by now that he is mistaken. By doing so he only fuels the resistance of the Palestinians, strengthens the hands of peace opponents, drives even moderate Palestinians towards radicalism and puts to jeopardy the entire prospect for peace in the region.

By Israeli admission, the people in Gaza have lost all their purchasing power due to the Israeli siege. Yet, although Rabin's government has placed Gazans on the edge of starvation, confrontations between the "Sabeab" and the Israeli occupying army are escalating, resulting in more deaths every day. This horrific situation must not be allowed to continue. The Arab World has an obligation to come to the rescue of the Palestinian people. The case of the closure of the West Bank and Gaza must be taken to the U.N. Security Council and an emergency fund must be established to help the people endure the hardships brought about by Israeli atrocities. The world powers ought to be reminded of their moral and legal obligations and duties towards the people under siege. The peace that Palestinians, Arabs and Israelis aspire to cannot be achieved while everyone turns a blind eye to the plight of the Palestinian people. Nor should Mr. Rabin continue to convince himself that by his actions in the West Bank and Gaza he can impose on Palestinians his version of peace.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL BUSTOUR daily dwelt Monday on the prospects for the 10th round of Arab-Israeli peace negotiations, noting that the U.S. administration has already embarked on steps to pave the ground for the coming session. Despite the Arab parties' suspicions about the Clinton administration's moves and despite the Arab countries' realisation of Washington's total bias towards Israel's stand, the U.S. is embarking on fresh consultations with the Israelis and the Arabs to convene the next round of talks, said the daily. Washington has decided to despatch envoys to the region to sound out the Israeli government's position first, before moving on to the Arab side, said the daily. Of course, this tactic is bound to anger the Arab parties and to deepen doubts about the outcome of the next session, said the paper. The previous sessions, including the ninth session, were all started with similar consultations which were held mainly to please the Israelis and to help the Americans understand Israel's views so that they can adopt them, the paper pointed out. It said that the same scenario is being repeated now, but it is up to the Arab foreign ministers who are meeting in Amman early next month to decide on the next move. The paper said that the Arabs parties, are now called on to adopt a unified stand, demanding commitments in deeds rather than in words, and concrete steps that would be conducive to peace and a final settlement.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i said Sudan's retreat from its earlier position with regard to the disputed area of Halaib, near the border with Egypt, was a wrong step. But the retreat is bound to defuse the explosive situation and help the Egyptians and the Sudanese negotiators reach a compromise settlement, said Mahmud Rimawi. Retreat and compromise are better than going to war over a disputed area of land between the Arab states, he said. Sudanese step, the writer added, could compel Egypt to take a similar move and try to find a solution through peaceful means that would cater to the national rights of the two countries. The Arab countries are now contemplating the situation with interest, hoping to see reconciliation between Khartoum and Cairo and positive steps bolstering, rather than weakening, bilateral ties, the writer added. The best means of defusing the tension away from any move towards confrontation, under impulsion from foreign forces. Indeed, the dispute is of a political rather than a geographical nature, and it is hoped, said the writer, that Egypt will promptly respond favourably to the Sudanese step and move Khartoum half way towards peace.

The View from Fourth Circle

The unequal fate of whales and Muslims

As the United States, Europe and Russia maintain a relatively gingerly attitude towards the massacres and ethnic cleansing of Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina, frustration and rage continue to build up in the Arab and Islamic World against what is increasingly perceived to be a "plot" to prevent the birth of Europe's first Islamic country. Some Islamic quarters even go further, and see the suffering of Bosnian Muslims as a prelude to an ominous fate that awaits other Muslim communities in the early years of the "new world order".

Recent meetings and statements to this effect have generated a pattern of sentiment that may not bring immediate relief to the suffering of the Bosnians, but they do point to a possible political trend in many Arab and Islamic lands that should not be shrugged off as mere expressions of frustration. We have enough evidence in recent decades to suggest that the angry statements of officials reflect a deeper and more powerful grassroots feeling that will ultimately translate into policy changes — and perhaps even to changes among Third World political leaderships that are seen by their people to have failed the test of leadership.

Very strong sentiments were forcefully expressed at last month's meetings in Karachi of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), which groups the world's 51 Islamic countries (representing one billion people, or one-fifth of the world's population). The OIC pledged \$50 million in emergency aid to Bosnia, demanded an immediate lifting of the arms embargo against Bosnian Muslims, and called for the establishment of an international war crimes tribunal to try and punish those found guilty of "genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes". Some OIC members, including generally pro-western Egypt and Turkey, stated clearly that the resolutions could be interpreted as a call to Islamic states to break the arms embargo unilaterally.

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati told the meeting that Islamic nations needed the physical power to protect Muslim rights around the world, noting that the continued ethnic cleansing in Bosnia and "pointed international anti-Islamic propaganda indicate a well-planned strategy against Islam" on two fronts — physical aggression and cultural abuse. A specific example of this fear was given by the noted Egyptian commentator Fahmi Howeidi, who warned that the Muslims of India may be facing a fate similar to that of Bosnian Muslims.

This theme was also prominent at a recent meeting of over 700

international Muslim scholars in Cairo, which repeatedly contrasted the world's stringent and enduring anti-Iraq and anti-Libya embargoes with international lassitude in protecting Muslim Bosnians or Palestinians suffering and dying under Israeli occupation. The contrast, they said, "raises doubts about the credibility of the international community's standards" in respecting the U.N. Charter and human rights standards.

The overriding sentiment among Arabs and Muslims is that the Bosnian situation reveals the ugly face of the new world order in which tangential cultures can suffer deeply as long as northern and western interests are not really threatened.

Even countries that are deeply dependent on western protection and markets, such as Saudi Arabia and Egypt, have spoken out forcefully against the Bosnia situation. The Saudi-owned Al Sharq Al Awsat has charged that Europe and Russia are involved in an international "conspiracy" to do away with the Bosnians at the end of the 20th century in the same manner that the Palestinians were disenfranchised from their national land and rights in the middle of this century.

Noting a British (I) official's remark that Europe would never allow an Islamic state to rise in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the paper charged that the European Community's "actual goal was the continuation of the massacre of the Muslims and the disintegration of the geographical entities and pockets they had left in Bosnia."

Salamah Ahmad, a columnist in Cairo's semi-official Al Ahram newspaper, sarcastically contrasted the recent decision of the International Whaling Commission to set up "safe havens" on the high seas for whales threatened by extinction with the slow progress on establishing safe havens for Bosnian Muslims. It seems, he noted, that in the new world order fish have more rights than human beings, despite all the talk about human rights from the United States and Europe.

The implications of Arab/Islamic anger at the tragedy in Bosnia threaten to generate a powerful reaction amongst Arabs, Muslims and others in the developing world who are already deeply sceptical about the true ramifications of the so-called "new world order". An editorial in Al Sharq Al Awsat earlier this month warned that Europe's "inhuman" failure to help end the massacres in Bosnia threatens the new world order with collapse and even poses a danger to "the future of the world". Calling the

Bosnia situation "the ugliest massacre since the end of World War II," the paper charged that Europe's obvious stalling tactics suggest "a hidden arrangement to give the Serbs and then the Croats the opportunity to drive out the Bosnian Muslims and clear the country of them, wiping them out en masse and occupying their territories."

Editorialist Joseph Samaha, writing in the pan-Arab, London-based daily Al Hayat, says that allowing slices of Bosnia to be added to Greater Serbia and Greater Croatia would leave "a small Islamic pocket, if any such pocket remains, to bear witness that the right of might is stronger than the might of right."

This bleak situation is not totally devoid of a silver lining, however, according to Abdul Rahman Al Rasheed, editor of the Saudi weekly magazine Al Majalla, who said that Bosnia could still elicit decisive U.S.-led action to stop the carnage and restore Muslim rights in Bosnia. He suggests that forceful corrective action led by the U.S. would help the U.S. improve its standing in an Arab and Islamic World that largely feels that recent U.S. interventions in Kuwait, Somalia, and the Arab-Israeli peace process were either undertaken for selfish interests or were mere "stage productions".

A decisive move in Bosnia would temper Arab/Islamic scepticism of western motives and win the United States genuine friends, just as some Arabs, especially Kuwaitis, felt "genuine love" for Washington after the war in the Gulf, he said. I say, let's hope so and let's work for this, but not hold our breath or bet on it.

Until this happens, however, the continued suffering of Bosnian Muslims will generate further anti-American and anti-European sentiments throughout the Arab and Islamic World. This is likely to fuel two trends: a deterioration in already thin western political credibility, and the possibility of eliciting political, economic and even military responses by Arab and Islamic communities that feel deeply threatened by what they perceive to be a continuing legacy of political double standards and even cultural genocide by the dominant western powers — not so much a new world order, as a grim and dirty perpetuation of the violent old order in a new form, with new, largely Arab and Muslim, victims.

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A struggle for independence

In the following article, Doctor in philosophy and historian Ma'an Abu Nowar, retired army general and ex-minister, traces the social, economic, political and legal history of the creation of Transjordan between 1920 and 1929, with stress on the growth of nationalism and political awareness of the tribal communities.



Amir Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein

1922, and in response to a British demand, the Council of the League of Nations, in accordance with international law, confirmed the international personality and separate entity of Transjordan, when it passed a resolution declaring that all the Zionist clauses in the mandate for Palestine did not apply in Transjordan, and that the British government accepted full responsibility as mandatory for a separate Transjordan. On April 27, 1923, the secretary of state for foreign affairs declared: "Subject to the approval of the League of Nations, His Britannic Majesty's government will recognise the existence of an independent government in Transjordan under the rule of His Highness Amir Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein, provided such a government is constitutional and places His Britannic Majesty's government in a position to fulfil their international obligations in respect of the territory by means of an agreement to be concluded between the two governments." By 1929 the three conditions in that declaration were fulfilled with the ratification by Britain and Transjordan of the 1928 Agreement, and the approval of the League of Nations.

During the early stages of its development, Transjordan was handicapped by Zionist attempts for its annexation to Palestine. From the points of views of Winston Churchill, T.E. Lawrence, Major Rupert Young and Sir Gilbert Clayton, morality and politics, as they affected Transjordan, coincided and accorded with British policy and interests. They thus did not allow British aims to be subservient to Zionist objectives in Transjordan. But all the British Zionists and pro-Zionist officials, in contrast, subordinated British policy and interests to Zionist aims, as they endeavoured by every possible means to remove Amir Abdullah from Transjordan and annex it to Palestine.

The French government wanted Britain to exercise stricter controls over Transjordan in order to prevent the Arab nationalists from raiding Syria, especially after the attempt made by Transjordan to kill the French High Commissioner in Qunaitrah. St John Philby, who replaced Abramson as British representative in Amman, made British aims and interests in Transjordan subservient to Israeli Arab aims and interests. He

created some of the reasons for the 'Adnan rebellion of 1922; he caused the introduction of stricter British financial control over the government of Transjordan and he went as far as wrongly accusing Amir Abdullah of squandering public funds, while he was the culprit who spent money from the Grant-in-Aid to entertain the High Commissioner, his family and his staff in Petra, as well as awarding gifts to his friends in the desert. The financial crises caused mainly by Samuel and Philby crippled Transjordan, and the first massive Wahhabi Khwan raid which followed nearly destroyed the infant state. Philby's behaviour in Transjordan until April 19, 1924, will remain an enigma much more entangled and far more perplexing than it suggests.

The first British Labour government had little experience in international affairs and no experience in Arab affairs. Particularly the colonial secretary J.H. Thomas's attitude towards Transjordan showed lack of vision and a simplistic approach to international relations. With Churchill and Lawrence out of the way, there was no one in the Colonial Office to stand up against Meinertzhagen's Zionist schemes. John Shackbrough and Maj. Young were already converted to pro-Zionism, and after Sharif Hussein's abdication, they realised that the Transjordan card lost its value. Amir Abdullah and the poor people of Transjordan were now on their own.

Lt. Colonel Henry Cox, who replaced Philby as British representative in 1924, was distinctly an opinionated soldier and administrator rather than a politician or diplomat. To begin with, he accepted Samuel's and Frederick Peake's ideas of removing Amir Abdullah from Transjordan, well before he knew him enough to realise his indispensability to the country, its cohesion and law and order. His mission coincided with an extremely critical situation for Amir Abdullah and the Transjordanians. For within one month (Aug. 8 to Sept. 3), the financial crisis which was created by Philby, and further aggravated by Cox, crippled Amir Abdullah's freedom of action and made the people poorer. Al Rikabi, the then Jordanian prime minister, was Cox's and Peake's protégé rather than Amir Abdullah's prime minister. The sudden break out of raids from Transjordan against the French in Syria, the British government's ultimatum demanding financial control, the expulsion of certain members of Arab nationalists from Al Istiqlal Party of Transjordan, British stricter control over the Arab Legion, the second and more devastating Wahhabi Khwan invasion against the Kingdom of Hijaz were all successive and stunning blows that could have knocked out Amir Abdullah or any man in his position.

But, even in his anger, Amir Abdullah kept his cool and calm realism; instead of surrendering to the compelling emotions, he employed his prudence and political acumen; he kept his main aim of survival and the independence of Transjordan within sight and consented to the British ultimatum. With wisdom and patience Amir Abdullah was able to turn the political tide by strict adherence to his political friendship for Britain. The Zionists and pro-Zionist British officials who, against the interests of their own government attempted to remove him from Transjordan, failed yet again; and in the covert jousts of political causes, and in the secret combat of principles between Amir Abdullah and them, Amir Abdullah won his and Transjordan's survival. For as far as the Jordanians were concerned, Samuel, Wendham Deedes, Abramson, Philby, Cox, and Peake were foreigners (Ajaneb) who had no right to control their life, while Amir Abdullah was the descendant of the Prophet Mohammad, a member of the most noble Arab tribe, and their Amir.

While endeavouring to maintain his presence in Transjordan and immunise his newly-founded state against annexation to Palestine, Amir Abdullah did not take his political aims for granted. An expert in tribal affairs, he applied the old doctrine of ruling through the sheikhs and notables, and while he allowed his cabinet to run the administration of the country, he directly communicated with the traditional leaders of the people. He kept them informed of his wishes and aims, and convinced them that they were their own. His camp and later his palace and Diwan were visited, every day including Friday, by delegations, sheikhs, notables, senior officials and officers. His hospitality was remarkable, his presence was politically rewarding and his company was intellectually entertaining. Furthermore, Amir Abdullah was extremely generous with his subvention to the sheikhs and notables who mattered most, without depriving those who were in need. He bestowed titles and ranks and controlled the appointments of directors, judges, senior civil servants and officers of the Arab Legion, through his Royal Command (Iradah Al Saniyah). The internal reins of power were in his hands.

By contrast, successive British representatives, with the very thin presence of British officials, — not exceeding three — did not and indeed could not communicate directly with the people's channel of communication, was restricted to Amir Abdullah and certain ministers and civil service protégés. Thus, their mission remained ambassadorial in some interference. Apart from the few Jordanians who shyly and secretly crept to the British residence and to Peake's office, no Jordanians were in direct communication with them; they were nearly isolated from the people.

However, in the political " tug-of-war" for financial and military control over the Arab Legion during 1925, Amir Abdullah was not the loser when he consented to the demands made in the British ultimatum. He lost financial control over the budget, but gained the continuation of the Grant-in-Aid of about 80,000 pounds; he lost the presence of the leaders of the Istiqlal Party which he did not need, but gained the removal of the British garrisons from his capital, Amman, which he desperately wanted; he gave the right of inspection of

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Features



The Amman downtown Roman amphitheatre as it looked in the 1920s



The Bani Sakher tribesmen who joined the Kaf garrison

Struggle for independence

Continued from page 4

Arab Legion to a British officer of much higher rank and more experience than Peake, who, unknown to him, was plotting to remove him from Transjordan, he gave an extradition agreement to remove criminals from Transjordan, but gained immunity from extradition for political refugees; he abolished the Department of Tribal Affairs, but replaced it with a better system of Tribal Courts and bedouin supervision, which kept him in control of the desert tribes, he gave the right of inspection of antiquities to a British expert, but only because he had no Jordanian experts, and he needed all the help he could get in that field. All that with the assurance by the British government of his status and that of his country, as well as their commitment to defend Transjordan against internal and external attack.

The end of Samuel's mission as High Commissioner for Palestine and Transjordan also saw the end, at least during that decade, of the endeavours to annex Transjordan to Palestine for Zionist aims. Lord Plumer who succeeded him, was not pro-Zionist as far as Transjordan was concerned; he strongly opposed any control by the Palestine government over this country. Indeed, he considered its annexation to Palestine totally unjust and fraught with danger. Cox soon realised that without Amir Abdullah's goodwill and cooperation he could not succeed in his mission, nor could he implement his government's policy without the presence of British troops, which they did not wish to employ at the strength needed for the control of the whole country. The British government could not have afforded the high expense of at least one brigade of the British army in Transjordan at that time. Thus Cox saw no alternative to Amir Abdullah and consented to an about-face in his attitude towards him.

Lord Plumer dealt a severe blow to the development of the Arab Legion into a military force capable of defending the country against internal and external aggression during 1926. With full agreement from Cox and Peake, and against strong protest by Amir Abdullah, he reduced the strength of the Arab Legion from 1,472 officers and men to 855. He deprived it of its military character and reduced it to a police force responsible for crime prevention and detection and prison guard duties. Peake, who did not lift a finger to defend his command and was in fact in fangth by replacing the reduced strength by an imperial unit (the Transjordan Frontier Force, TJFF), showed clearly how disloyal he was to the future of the Arab Legion, or the men under his command. The vast majority of the TJFF were not Jordanians. Those 617 disbanded men, whose families suffered the loss of their income, were Jordanians.

It was not only the Arab Legion, the four aeroplanes, and four armoured cars, as well as the TJFF, which maintained law and order in Transjordan. The Arab Legion was very thinly deployed throughout the country and could not provide more than 200 men for a major operation; the aeroplanes and armoured cars were blind at night and could only fight in daylight, and apart from their small number, the armoured cars had no access to the mountains from Umm Qais to Petra. The TJFF was a newly established and

quasi mercenary force with no heart to fight a Jordanian rebellion, taking into account the skill and courage with which they fought the Wahhabi Ikhwan. Furthermore, in the absence of Amir Abdullah, a popular rebellion against the British Mandate would have raised no less than 10,000 armed men from the Balqa tribes and Bani Sakhr, not to mention, at least 20,000 from the rest of the country. It was loyalty and obedience to Amir Abdullah and his ability to influence the tribes of Transjordan, both bedouin and (non-bedouin) Hadar, rather than the physical power of the Arab Legion, which maintained law and order in the country.

Needless to say that Cox and Peake would not have had a chance to survive without either Amir Abdullah's compelling presence and prestige or the presence of a large British military force. Peake's claim that the loyalty of the Arab Legion was to him, without Amir Abdullah's influence, was a myth, considering that he was himself arrested by Bani Sakhr's Sheikh Mithqal Al Fayiz who kept him in a barley store for 48 hours. Moreover, the British government needed Amir Abdullah as long as they had the slightest hope of an agreement with his father, King Hussein of the Hijaz. Thus marginal control through him was not only wise but necessary. However, with the abdication of King Hussein, and later his eldest son King Ali, Amir Abdullah's political power was diminished in Arab affairs and all that remained for him was his own prestige in Transjordan and what moral support he could get from his brother King Faisal of Iraq.

By the end of 1926, the British Mandate's marginal and indirect control, with financial assistance, was superseded by direct political, financial and military control, with a substantial reduction in the Grand-in-Aid. Thus Amir Abdullah's political power was limited and a British colonial oligarchy, fully supported by Palestinian Arab officials seconded from the government of Palestine, replaced the Syrian oligarchy. The Jordanians had to jostle for the very few jobs in the Arab Legion and the civil service of their own country. With the exception of the Department of Education, every other department was headed by a Palestinian or British official. The people of Transjordan were incensed by their deprivation of the benefits of their government in which they had no political share. If the unjust proportionality unemployment was one of the causes of the 'Adwan' rebellion of 1922, there was no proportionality whatsoever in 1926.

An agricultural and pastoral country, Transjordan was entirely dependent on variable rainfall. Thus the farmers, which constituted the majority of the people, had no predictable fortunes. In good years (Sanawat Al Ghilal), their share of support and comfort was ample, with some reserve for their capital. In bad years (Sanawat Al Mahl), they ate their capital and borrowed from moneylenders to survive. Meanwhile, considering the contemporary levels of income, the rich merchants and middlemen, government civil servants, officers and soldiers etc. were not affected by bad years; their share of the economy was constant and invariable. Furthermore, two devaluations of the rate of exchange of the Ottoman lira inflicted great

losses on the people and the introduction of the Palestine pound in 1927 hit them hard for the third time within three years. Thus, the wide gap of economic and political power between the poor indigenous people, who made their living from the land, and the Syrian and Palestinian immigrants who occupied the vast majority of government posts, and consequently had nearly full control over the economy, became wider, as the latter became richer and the former became poorer. 1924 was a lean year, 1925 was not good enough to compensate for the losses of 1924 and early in 1926 hot winds destroyed more than 35 per cent of the crops.

If all that did not completely destabilise the economic fortunes of the Jordanians, the earthquake which shook the whole country on July 11, 1927, for 30 seconds did. In that earthquake, 40 people were killed, and 99 others were injured; 472 houses collapsed and 769 others were seriously damaged. However, instead of helping the Jordanians with an increase in the Grant-in-Aid, Cox recommended to the British government its reduction from 66,000 to 45,000. Needless to say that the deficit had to be made up from increased and more efficiently collected taxation.

The negotiations for the Treaty and Organic Law were conducted during a critical year for Amir Abdullah. His father, King Hussein, was in exile in Cyprus, which constantly reminded him that he too could be exiled. His cabinet was composed of men who toed Cox's line: his senior civil servants were seconded from the Palestine government and although they paid lip service to him, their loyalty was to their British employers. His Arab Legion, though loyal to him, was reduced to a small constabulary very thinly deployed throughout the country. The TJFF stood by prepared and ready for action against him if he attempted to create serious trouble for the British. The Syrian revolt of 1925, which he secretly supported, was completely crushed by the French Army and Air Force, which reminded him of the same fate if he contemplated a Jordanian rebellion. He was under severe personal financial pressure, not only due to his perpetual generosity, but also because of his increased liability owing to the presence of his family in Amman; his debts were increased to the extent that his loyal wife had to sell her jewelry to make ends meet.

Moreover, Amir Abdullah could not ignore the possibility that without him Transjordan would eventually be absorbed by Palestine and included in the Balfour Declaration. For Britain, the strongest power on earth then, which excluded Transjordan from the Zionist clauses of the mandate for Palestine, could have imposed its reincision; and the fact that all but one department were headed by Palestinian officials created much suspicion that the absorption would have been an easy alternative for the Amir's rule, after his father's abdication.

Thus, the fear of Zionist immigration and colonisation persisted. With the Wahhabis' increased threat to the peace of the desert, which restarted with their raid against Al Zabin branch of the Bani Sakhr tribe and the killing of their Sheikh Hatmal Al

Zabin, the pressure on Amir Abdullah became nearly impossible to overcome. It was under those political and personal situations that the treaty between Great Britain and Transjordan of Feb. 20, 1928, was signed, and the Organic Law of April 19, 1928, was promulgated.

Perhaps one of the main reasons, among many, for the intense criticism of the Treaty, which followed immediately after its publication, was the muddled, and consequently the vague, Arabic translation which amplified the limitations placed upon the Amir's and Transjordan's sovereignty; it defaced the real intentions of raising military forces in Transjordan, it highlighted the negative nature of the political and financial relations between the two countries and it obscured the real facts of British financial assistance. Lord Plumer, who signed the original Arabic copy, retired in July 1928, and the corrected Arabic translation was signed by him, in his retirement, bereft of jurisdiction. However, the Treaty contained many political advantages and only few advantages to the Amir and Transjordan.

"The British government especially recognised Transjordan's independent government and the Amir as its head of state. The Treaty provided that the powers of legislation and administration were transferred from the British government to His Highness the Amir."

Among the advantages, the British government especially recognised Transjordan's independent government and the Amir as its head of state. The Treaty provided that the powers of legislation and administration were transferred from the British government to His Highness the Amir, that the British government shall not place obstacles in the way of association of Transjordan for customs or other purposes with neighbouring Arab states, which recognised the right of Transjordan to conclude international treaties, that the British government was committed to assist Transjordan for the ordinary expenses of government and the Arab Legion, in so far and for such time as revenues of Transjordan were insufficient and that the Treaty shall be revised from time to time. In several articles there was an implied commitment by the British government to defend Transjordan.

By accepting the Treaty, Amir Abdullah had further immunised politically and legally Transjordan against Zionist immigration and colonisation and removed even the slightest doubt regarding the absorption of Transjordan by Palestine. For nowhere in the Treaty was there the slightest hint of that danger. On the contrary, Article 18 provided: "No territory in Transjordan shall be ceded or leased or in any way placed under the control of any foreign power." Moreover, Article 3 provided that: "No official of other than Transjordan nationality shall be appointed in Transjordan," which precluded Palestine government officials from appointments in the government of Transjordan.

Bearing in mind Transjordan's internal and external situation, and the political, economic, and military threats it was facing during that critical period of its new creation, the disadvantages were few, and far less important than

the survival of the country. Even a literal interpretation of the Treaty, with emphasis on the meaning of words and sentences, shows clearly that limitations in favour of the British government stopped short of allowing it jurisdiction or authority over Transjordanian subjects and government institutions. Indeed, the limitations were of consultative and advisory nature, rather than authoritarian, with one exception: Article 4 which provided that the Amir agreed to adopt laws which allow the British government to discharge its international responsibilities. However, from a British point of view, the Treaty was a typical engagement of British policy between the world wars in the Middle East, which provided for what Kirk described as: "a gradual yielding up, by treaties negotiated with the moderate national forces, of such attributes of power as were not vital to Britain's interests, and at the same time in attempting to entrench herself in those vital positions by means of safeguarding clauses in those same treaties."

An article by article examination of the Organic Law of 1928,

the Legislative Council. There was no harm done in that provision, for it became evident later, that the treaties concerned were beneficial to Transjordan. They included treaties such as the Postal Union, Prevention of Slavery etc., and if they were good enough for Britain to accept them, they were good enough for Transjordan.

Between the two wars, the emergence of the new Arab nation states of Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and Transjordan, and the establishment of constitutional governments in these countries, gave the Arabs some experience in a limited form of pluralism, either under mandate or bound by treaties indirectly limiting their sovereignty and independence. Britain and France, each in their own sphere of influence or control, negotiated with moderate Arab nationalists the framing of these countries' constitutions, which stopped at various points short of containing complete fundamental principles of pluralism in terms of constitutional law, the rights of the people and individual citizens, government responsibility and accountability, separation of powers, and full independence of the judiciary.

Not only was there a difference between the attitudes of the mandatory powers towards the countries in their trust, but each power differentiated between the countries in her trust. There was no doubt that Britain and France were guided more by their national interests and far less by the principles of the Covenant of the League of Nations, or the spirit of "the trust of civilisation" it embodied. While Britain was more liberal in its attitude towards Egypt, Iraq and Transjordan, France attempted to directly control Syria and Lebanon; and while the unjust Zionist policy dictated Britain's attitude towards Palestine, there was no moral or political justification for the differentiation it made between Egypt, Iraq and Transjordan, on the one hand, and between Transjordan and Palestine on the other. In the words of Lord Plumer: "and yet backward as they are (the Transjordanians) in all these matters, they have been accorded a degree of political autonomy and self-government far more advanced than their neighbours in Palestine will attain for some years."

During that period, with the exception of Palestine, elections were held, parliaments were established, national governments were formed, and the judiciary became the pride of these countries, particularly in civil, criminal, and Sharia affairs. More than a hundred newspapers, magazines, and periodicals flourished with some degree of freedom. Many political parties emerged. Some social and economic progress was achieved. Education was the main thrust for development as it spread from the main cities to the rural areas. Trade was reactivated after the peace settlement. Small industries were created. Roads and transport systems were improved. Municipal services were extended to new areas and such services as health, public works, post and telegraph, land registries, banking were introduced. The peoples of these countries were on their way to modernity and pluralism.

Throughout that period of development, the traditional and moderate Arab nationalists who were the scions of the sheikhs and notables and their allies (merchants, lawyers, doctors, officers, senior civil servants and landed gentry) reaped the main benefit of modernisation. The vast

majority of the people (small farmers, workers, junior civil servants and soldiers) gained very little if any. On the contrary, higher inflation and taxation, and the losses in the value of the Ottoman lira by the introduction of the English pound, the French franc and the new Egyptian pound made them poorer, while the former became richer. Small towns and villages stood still in their poverty. However, the spread of education and political awareness from the cities to the countryside brought about an economic and social awakening; grievances became transparent, discontent became vibrant and political agitation followed, not only against the moderate nationalists, but mainly against Britain and France.

Meanwhile, the creation of the separate entity of Transjordan, and the development of its central government and district administrations, gave the people little benefits. For they suffered the burden of the highly increased cost of government since its creation in 1921, which made them much poorer. The growing power of authority and coercion, the determined enforcement of law and order, and consequently the strict collection of the much increased tax, which spread from the capital Amman to the countryside, made the people much more governed by central departments and local administrations. Before 1920, the highest authority was far away in Istanbul, but in 1929, it was there amongst them down to the village mukhtar and policeman. This process created a new set of administrative, social, economical, and political activities. The people who were accustomed to very little government during that year, reacted gradually to the new order with a growing yearning for political power and self-government. The Kurah incident, the Adwan rebellion, the aborted National Party, the various delegations, the National Pact, the opposition against the 1928 Treaty, the Kurah petition to the League of Nations, the aborted boycott against the elections and the opposition group in the Legislative Council were clear expressions of that yearning for political change.

Ten years of rapid development of Transjordan, which saw it change from stateless tribal societies with no cohesion to a national state under the British Mandate, were not enough to transform the newly-born political groups into organised political institutions. The sheikhs, the notables and the leaders of various political groups were not able to transform the popular sympathy they enjoyed among the people into effective and permanent political organisations. Thus tribalism remained vibrant and compelling within the context of an infant national feeling. On the other hand, and in spite of the support given the Cox and Peake to the government to hold elections, and later to approve the Treaty by the Legislative Council, they were not able to achieve either until the Amir intervened and persuaded the opposition to agree. Such became the Amir's power and influence in Transjordan that nothing could be done without his influence. Needless to say that he was prevented from acting with full freedom because of the financial limitations imposed upon him and Transjordan.

Although the delay in concluding the Treaty and promulgating the Organic Law, as well as in establishing a constitutional gov-

ernment and a Legislative Council, was not intended in its causes and effects to create a Transjordanian identity, it was of major importance for it allowed enough time for the right beginning and development of that identity. By 1928, and in spite of the ties of religion, language, culture, historical experience and origin which bound the Arabs of Transjordan with their immediate Arab neighbours, a distinct Jordanian feeling of togetherness emerged. This feeling was created in the hearts and minds of Transjordan's various tribal communities after nine years of separate existence under the Amir's rule, with a central government, one set of laws, one flag, one delimited territory, shared common advantages, disadvantages, interests, fears and hopes. Their common fear of Zionism goaded them to erect a mental barrier against the British Palestine government, and the threat of their annexation to Palestine evoked a sense of defensive nationalism against the British Mandate. Their fears for the Arabs of Palestine against Zionism, and for the Arabs of Syria against French oppression, especially after the cruelty with which France crushed the Syrian revolt of 1925, created an emotion of Transjordan protective nationalism. Their fear of Wahhabi raids, which continued to threaten their lives and future, enhanced a common tribal feeling of "us and them."

Thus, in their defensive oneness of response to the needs of that period and the general situation, whatever feelings they had for Arab nationalism, they drew from the wider Arab question of independence and unity into the Transjordanian question of survival, freedom and independence. In their fears, the imposed official boundaries which they had resented, had now become the psychological boundaries between them and the abstract notions of the neighbouring Arab countries. Thus within the context of a larger Arab identity, an infant, local and emotional sense of common Transjordanian identity began to develop. This was termed later al wattaniyah al qutriyah or state nationalism.

The creation of the new Arab national states in the Arab provinces of the dismantled Ottoman Empire initiated the stage of local rather than Pan-Arab nationalism, i.e. al wattaniyah al qutriyah. By 1928, the Kingdom of Iraq was well established; the Lebanese people accepted a Chamber of Deputies and the Syrian, accepted a Chamber of Deputies with a nationalist majority in June 1928; the Seventh Palestine Arab Congress held in Jerusalem on June 20, 1928, demanded a Palestinian parliamentary government in Palestine; the Transjordanians were more concerned with their own survival and endeavouring to achieve their own constitutional government. Arab unity seemed to have been shelved for some time to come. It is still gathering the dust of history.

On this day, May 25, 1993, seventy two years later, we Jordanians must remember the struggle of our fathers and grandfathers to achieve freedom and independence. Today we have the strongest cause and effect of our identity as Arabs and Jordanians, under the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein Ibn Talal: Freedom and liberty, democracy, elected Parliament, government responsibility and accountability, separation of powers, independence of the judiciary, political pluralism, and human rights. Let us do well with them.

GATT chief wags finger at Washington over trade

GENEVA (R) — GATT chief Arthur Dunkel took aim at the United States Monday, saying strong-arm tactics by big countries to impose policies on others could endanger the world trading system.

Addressing the Pacific Basin Economic Council in the South Korean capital Seoul, he said that unless the Uruguay Round of talks on trade liberalisation were wrapped up this year they might never be completed.

A text of his speech was made available in Geneva.

"We see for example attempts to impose domestic environmental or labour standards on other countries through trade measures, and attempts to open markets through bilateral pressure rather than in multilateral negotiation," Mr. Dunkel said.

"This bilateralism is a threat to open regional arrangements as much as it is to the open multilateral system," he declared.

Mr. Dunkel said he was disturbed by "a new flirtation with protectionism in some of the world's leading economies" and a questioning of the value of an open trading system.

This was especially alarming, the former Swiss diplomat said, because hopes for a modest recovery in the world economy "hinge on the prospects for growth in trade."

Mr. Dunkel, 60, steps down on June 30 after 10 years in the post of director general of the Geneva-based General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) which acts as the world



Arthur Dunkel

trade watchdog and forum for trade negotiations.

He had steered the Uruguay Round — which involves more than 100 countries in an effort to ease traditional trade in goods and extend GATT rules to services, textiles and intellectual property — since its launch in 1986.

Due to end in December 1990, the round first stalled on differences between the United States and the European Community (EC) over farm subsidies. This year confusion over trade policy in the new U.S. administration has blocked movement.

As effective arbiter in the round, whose main guiding body he chairs, Mr. Dunkel has avoided criticising any one party and in his Seoul speech he suggested the EC, Japan and South Korea should all be ready for compromise.

His main criticism was clearly aimed at President Bill Clinton's new team and sections of the Democrat-controlled U.S. Congress which argue for tough tactics to achieve Washington's trade objectives.

Mr. Dunkel said Mr. Clinton's request to Congress for renewed negotiating authority in the round until Dec. 15 was encouraging and urged leaders of the top seven industrial powers meeting in Tokyo in July to work for that deadline.

In a clear sign that he was far from convinced it could be met, he warned that "all of the old protectionist interests are still out there.... Waiting for their chance at a comeback and all too happy to borrow some respectable clothes."

"Furthermore, some of the politicians and officials who should be fighting for the open trading system that has made their societies more prosperous and more secure do not, because of the seductiveness of ideas of 'level playing fields', 'fair trade' or 'managed trade'."

All three terms are widely used by Clinton trade officials and advisers. The GATT chief, expected to be replaced by former senior EC official Peter Sutherland of Ireland, argued that his draft final act for the round — presented in Dec. 1991 — could not undergo large-scale changes.

Since January this year, signals from Washington have suggested the new administration wants substantial alterations to the text — largely accepted by most other states and groupings in the round.

China disputes IMF rerating of its economy

PEKING (R) — China, trying to use its current production boom to make up for decades of socialist stagnation, disputed Monday an International Monetary Fund (IMF) rerating that said it was already an economic superpower.

The IMF has come up with a ranking of the world's economies based on a new way of calculating output that boosts China's standing to third in the world — right behind the United States and Japan.

For China's leaders, still trying to push their people to further feats of economic growth, the new "superpower" status clearly does not sit easily.

"The report of IMF has over-

estimated the economic output of China," a foreign ministry spokesman said by telephone, pointing out that China remained a developing country with a population of more than 1.1 billion.

He said that in terms of production and income per person, China had a long way to go to catch up even with what he called "medium-developed countries."

The numbers game is important — if the new ranking becomes generally accepted, China may lose out on some of the concessional loans, special grants and other help it has relied on to build up a booming export industry that helped push economic

growth up 12.8 per cent last year.

The new method of calculation no longer converts output to U.S. dollar values at market exchange rates. Instead, it looks at the comparative purchasing power of currencies to try to get a more realistic view of value.

Under the new system, China's economy is now four times larger than previously calculated, making it third in the world instead of 10th.

Other developing countries such as India and Indonesia have had similar, dramatic reratings.

The political implications of the new data are that the world's traditional economic leaders are going to have to look at countries

like China in a new way. That change has already started.

"Unless something very unfortunate... happens in the near future, China in economic terms is going to be a very, very major player," New York Federal Reserve President Gerald Corrigan told the Foreign Policy Association recently.

Westerners for decades have looked at China's one billion potential consumers as a huge market, but now they are starting to see them as competitors as well.

In the United States, for example, officials are very concerned

about the size of the trade deficit being run up with China.

The imbalance ballooned to \$18.3 billion last year from \$12.7 billion in 1991, and it is now Washington's second biggest trade headache after Japan.

The deficit is continuing to grow even bigger this year.

For Chinese leaders, the 1.1 billion people jammed into overcrowded cities and swarming over narrow belts of arable land are more a liability than a strength.

Many economists say that it is obvious that the world's most populous nation would have to have one of the world's largest economies just to supply people's basic needs.

India shedding excess workers from state sector

NEW DELHI (R) — India has quietly begun shedding excess staff from its bloated state sector, a critical element in its economic reform programme, Labour Minister Purno Sangma said.

"We realise that unless we tackle the problem of excess workers in our public sector, these units will continue to be white elephants," he told Reuters at the weekend.

He said that the process of laying off workers had begun in major loss-making state-run firms such as the National Textile Corporation (NTC), Coal India and pharmaceutical companies.

"Throwing out workers is a hard decision but one that has to be taken," he said in an interview.

Shedding workers in the public sector, where trade unions are strongest, is the most politically sensitive part of reforms begun nearly two years ago aimed at switching from a state-dominated economy to a market-oriented one.

Unions are vociferously opposed to job losses without alternative employment being offered. They are backed by most opposition parties in parliament.

Many senior Congress Party leaders are also opposed to layoffs, fearing it could cost the party heavily in votes during elections.

The World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) have lent India nearly \$4 billion to back the reforms — and one condition is to slim down the public sector workforce.

"We are tackling sick units which have the largest numbers first," Mr. Sangma said.

The NTC, one of the biggest state-run corporations, has been a chronic loss-maker for several years. Mr. Sangma said it had 70,000 surplus workers.

The government is raising resources from various sources, including the World Bank, for rehabilitation packages for the workers.

"We are not going to throw out workers to the streets. We are giving them attractive voluntary retirement benefits and trying to ensure that workers' skills are upgraded and put to more productive use in other sectors," Mr. Sangma said.

He said, for instance, that Coal India had set aside \$500 million to finance voluntary retirement and rehabilitation schemes. Some of it has been borrowed from international agencies under bilateral agreements, Mr. Sangma said.

Coal India has nearly 40,000 women on its payroll, many of them leading coal by hand on to railway wagons. Some of the women who have taken voluntary retirement have been provided with sewing machines and a workplace by the company.

These women get bulk orders to provide uniforms for schools and hospitals run by Coal India. Mr. Sangma said that other state-run corporations were working out their own packages for retrenched workers.

France makes 7th interest rate cut

PARIS (R) — The Bank of France, in a bid to revitalise the country's stagnant economy, cut interest rates Monday for the seventh time since the new conservative government took power in late March.

The central bank said it was cutting its intervention rate, which sets the floor for wholesale money market rates, to 7.50 per cent from 7.75 per cent. It also lowered its five-to-10-day rate, which acts as an interest rate ceiling, by a quarter-point to 8.50 per cent.

Successive quarter-point cuts in the intervention rate since April 13 have been possible because of confidence shown by international investors in the policies of Prime Minister Edouard Balladur's centre-right coalition, which won a landslide victory in March elections.

France has also been helped by interest rate cuts by the Bundesbank, Germany's central bank, which broadly determines the level of rates for all members of the European Monetary System.

The timing of the latest move, which boosted share prices by 0.8 per cent on the Paris Bourse, surprised some economists, who said market rates had fallen only slightly since the last cut on May 13.

Credit Lyonnais economist Philippe Brossard, speaking before the cuts were announced, said a reduction could signal monetary authorities were no longer willing to wait declines in market rates and wanted to force rates down.

The business daily La Tribune Dessefres reported Monday that Mr. Balladur, increasingly worried by France's economic slowdown, is planning to float a special government bond to fund a recovery programme.

It gave no source for the report but said the bond would be used to finance additional public spending on infrastructure.

French economic growth has fallen, while high public budget deficits have been aggravated by dwindling tax revenues.

Commissioner says EC jobless curve won't turn until 95/96

COPENHAGEN (R) — The European Community (EC) has little hope of reversing rising unemployment — currently over 17 million people and rising — until 1995 or 1996, Economic Affairs Commissioner Hennning Christoffersen said Monday.

"Even if we will see a continued fall in EC interest rates, industry will probably focus on consolidation, meaning that we do not expect the unemployment curve to turn until 1995 or 1996," Mr. Christoffersen said in a speech.

He said the EC's executive commission expected zero or below zero overall growth in the Community in 1993, with hopes for positive growth in 1994.

"But it is not yet possible to see any clear signs that we are heading towards positive growth in 1994," Mr. Christoffersen said. Mr. Christoffersen, a Dane,

was critical of the idea that a general easing of fiscal policy in the Community was the right way to spur growth and create jobs.

"In countries like Britain and Italy there is no room for a further easing of fiscal policy," he said.

Mr. Christoffersen said the 12-nation Community expected short-term German interest rates to fall further this year by between 1.5 and two per cent.

"I believe we will see a general further decline in short rates in Europe in 1993. The only uncertainty is over the pace of the fall," he said.

The EC has announced a \$5 billion European Currency Unit (\$42 billion) plan to boost faltering economic growth and reverse the rise in unemployment which is seen as one of the bloc's biggest problems.

Uganda launches charm offensive to woo investment

KAMPALA (R) — Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni launches a campaign Tuesday to woo foreign investment for a country Winston Churchill once called the pearl of Africa but whose name is synonymous with ruin.

Mr. Museveni will boast of Uganda's recovery from the dark days of ousted presidents Idi Amin and Milton Obote when he fires the opening shots in the charm offensive at a one-day conference in London, where he arrived at the weekend.

Private investors in Uganda will tell the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), an employers group, how they have fared since putting money into a country rich with natural resources but ruined by 20 years of civil unrest.

Finance and Economic Planning Minister Josh Mayanja-Nkangi told Reuters in an interview before flying to London the government considers foreign investment to be critical to Uganda's economic recovery.

"Without foreigners, it is difficult to see what progress can be made," he said.

The government is looking to the outside world for capital and

technology, both of which are in short supply in Uganda.

"We are going to say to them (potential foreign investors), 'look at this country and its natural resources if you want to come and exploit them, then please do so,'" Mr. Mayanja-Nkangi said.

One year after fighting his way to power in 1986, Mr. Museveni worked out a reform programme with the International Monetary Fund and won Western approval for harsh free market changes.

The economy has clawed its way back from rock-bottom despite world coffee price lows which have cost Uganda hundreds of millions of dollars from its only major export.

IMF figures this month put the expected 1992/93 gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate at 5.4 per cent, up from 3.4 per cent in the previous year.

The rate of exchange is stable and IMF figures show the annual rate of inflation — well above 200 per cent at the end of the 1980s — at a low of three per cent to June 1993.

The figures make good reading for economists but the government complains that its austerity programme means it has little to

spare for raising living standards.

One civil servant, earning an average salary among educated government officials of 28,000 Ugandan shillings (about \$28) per month, said: "Don't let them say we are living in paradise. In fact, this is hell on earth."

Discontent focusses on the government's privatisation programme — which parliament voted to halt in March — with charges that the government is selling public assets to foreigners at bargain-basement prices.

But the government is determined to open up in order to move on. Investors are lured by incentives including tax breaks, import duty exemptions and profit repatriation facilities.

Officials at the Uganda Investment Authority (UIA), set up in July 1991 to provide a one-stop shop for intending investors, are confident of their success.

"My answer to anyone who doubts that foreigners are interested is to point to the figures," says Arnold Lessard of the UIA. They show that at the end of April, 501 companies had been licensed since July 1991, marking total investment pledges of \$900 million.

Tanzania to use natural gas to produce electricity

DAR ES SALAAM (R) — Two Canadian firms will take part in a \$300 million project to use natural gas to produce electricity for Dar Es Salaam, state-owned Tanzania Electricity Supply Corporation (TANESCO) has said. The gas will be piped from Songosongo, 220 kilometres south of the capital to generate 110 megawatts of electricity.

The gas deposits at Songosongo were discovered 20 years ago, but have remained untapped because of the high cost of exploiting them. TANESCO said the Canadian firms, Ocelot and Trans-Canada Pipelines, would cooperate with the state-owned Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation. Ocelot Vice-President Donald Macphail told reporters a 30 cm pipeline would be laid from the offshore site at Songosongo.

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HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR TUESDAY MAY 25, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This isn't a day to be extravagant or to take any chances where your assets or your good name are concerned. Keep harmonious and refuse the temptation to get involved in all sorts of arguments and disagreements.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Now you have a day when most everyone wants to get their way in too much of a hurry so yourself keep poised and don't be rushed into precipitous action.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You are too impatient to make some change that will not to your best interest be unless you do slow down, get all the facts and take it at a measured pace.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Your attachment and you have a plan to get things you desire but it is advisable you take all factors into greater consideration or later troubles follow.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Instead of that insistent feeling you have to be tough with a partner, approach with your views in a cheerful and charming manner and it works out well.

LEO: (July 22 August 21) You need to add more charm to the surroundings where your greatest amount of activity takes place, then it will be easier for you to produce good results.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Use that energy now generated to in various ways let mate and other compatible persons be more aware of your devotion to them in special ways.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) This is a day when you are with your family to make sure that you both cheer them up and keep yourself in an amiable frame of mind for maintaining harmonious accord.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) A good day to make sure you compliment or otherwise give special attention and encouragement to those who are your daily allies to prevent estrangement.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Look for the ways and means to do those things which will make whatever you own more valuable as well as more attractive in appearance to others.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Your day to visit the beauty salon or barber shop that make you present the best possible appearance and add vitality to your physical wellbeing.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Look at your surroundings and see what will make them more attractive so you feel more comfortable and can have greater operative skill.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You would be wise to let good friends be more aware that you like them and enjoy their presence so do whatever will accomplish this purpose.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris

"It's like a Stephen King plot — no matter how often we pay them, they keep coming back!!!"

Peanuts

DID ANYONE CALL WHILE I WAS OUT? I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE OUT. WELL, DID ANYONE CALL? CALL WHO? ME! DID ANYONE CALL ME WHILE I WAS OUT? WHY WOULD ANYONE CALL YOU? AS SOON AS I'M THIRTY-FIVE, I THINK I'LL LEAVE HOME.

Andy Capp

ALL RIGHT, MUM? SHE DOESN'T MIND SLEEPING IN SILENCE AS LONG AS EVERYONE KNOWS SHE'S DOING IT.

Mutt'n'Jeff

YEP! IT SURE IS! SURE IS! YEH, IT SURE IS! SURE IS! WHO WAS THAT, JEFF? SOME FOOL PERSON KEEPS CALLING ON THE PHONE AND SAYS 'IT'S A LONG DISTANCE FROM NEW YORK - SO I SEZ, 'IT SURE IS' AND HANG UP!

THE Daily Crossword by Eugene Puffenberger

ACROSS
1 West Point
5 Football team
9 Gladness
11 Speechless
14 Electrical units
15 Lloyd or Beau
17 Continent: abbr.
18 Corn whiskey
20 Alphabet: run
21 Six in Madrid
23 Herald
24 Kind of ray
25 Condition
27 Plant spoke
28 Modify
29 Group of four
31 Has faith in
32 — pro nobis
33 Farming: abbr.
34 "— of the King" (Tennyson)
37 Biblical saintess
41 Secret accords
42 Swab
45 Lead and tin alloy
46 Signs
47 Hooded viper
48 Venice's chief magistrate
50 Eggs: pref.
51 Panamanian blwig, once
53 Took first place
54 "O" of mores
56 Study cubicle
58 Actress: Elle
59 Mrs. Marzoff
60 Noun suffix
61 Lip

DOWN
1 Alliance letters
2 Phases
3 Red wine
4 Converse
5 Ceramics
6 Transcran
7 Trial and —
8 Backing for murets
9 Gauge: abbr.
10 Livestock catcher
12 Plumed waders
13 Point of six lines
16 Headliners
19 Inlet
22 Saunters
24 Fuzzy
26 Noblemen
28 Cant
30 Prosecutors: abbr.
31 Little boy
34 Lamebrain
35 Home of the Broncos
36 City in Washington
38 Boasted
39 Luau's land
40 Nobod
42 Quagmire
43 Kimono accessory
44 Summary
47 Centers
48 Lizard
51 — but the brave
52 God of war
55 Fastener
57 Literary monogram

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DEROO
VORAF
HYRITT
LIRBED

WHAT SHE CALLED HER SOURPUSS HUSBAND.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: HER

Yesterday's Jumbles: HANDY GAUDY DEAFEN RADIUS
Answer: What did the exuberant wife do when her husband struck oil? — SHE GUSHED

